

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2-18, 20, and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 19 are cancelled. Claims 2-12 are allowed. Claim 21 is new. Claims 13-18 and 20 are rejected. Claims 2, 13, and 21 are independent.

Amendments

Editorial amendments have been made to claims 13-18. No new matter is added.

Cited Art

The Action cites Hind et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,772,331 (hereinafter “Hind”); Dondeti et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,263,435 (hereinafter “Dondeti”); and Hanna et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,013,389 (hereinafter “Hanna”).

Patentability of Claims 1 and 13-20 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Action rejects claims 13-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hind in view of Dondeti. Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite language similar to that of claim 2, which was previously found by the Examiner to be allowable over the combination of Hind and Dondeti. In particular, Applicants note the following language of claim 13:

a security initializer operational to receive a branding certificate from a branding device securely networked to the networked computing device, the branding device having previously generated the branding certificate and trust group membership certificates, the security initializer further operational to initialize the security resolver with the branding certificate and wherein the branding certificate comprises branding key data for verifying certificates provided by other devices within the trust group on the open-access network;

a security resolver operational, after being initialized with the branding public key to authenticate trust group membership certificates separate from the branding certificate provided to the networked computing device from other devices via the network interface using the branding key data and to verify that the other devices providing trust group membership certificates are members of the trust group of devices, and further operational to inhibit interaction via the network interface with other devices not authenticated as in the trust group of devices, the security resolver being initially uninitialized.

[Emphasis added.] Applicants note the similarities between this language and that of allowed claim 2:

generating a trust group membership certificate at the branding device which is signed by the branding device, the trust group membership certificate containing a signed group name as well as a signed key identifying the security-uninitialized device such that, *when the security-uninitialized device sends the trust group certificate to a branded device which is a member of the trust group, the trust group certificate is validated by the branded device, and the branded device verifies that the security-uninitialized device identified in the trust group membership certificate is a member of the trust group of devices referred to by the group name;*

transmitting the trust group membership certificate from the branding device to the security-uninitialized device via the secured network medium; and
initializing a security resolver of the security-uninitialized device to use the key data of the branding certificate to authenticate other devices interacting with the security-uninitialized device on the open multi-access network are in the trust group,

[Emphasis added.] Applicants respectfully note that, for at least the reasons for which claim 2 was found to be patentable over the combination of Hind and Dondeti, claim 13 is patentable over such combination as well. Additionally, while Applicants do not belabor the patentability of dependent claims 14-18 for the sake of brevity, Applicants note that each claim is patentable over the combination of Hind and Dondeti for at least the reasons noted with respect to claim 13. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 13-18 be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Patentability of Claim 21

Claim 21, while directed to computer-readable media, recites language that is similar or identical to claim 2, which was previously found to be allowable. Applicants respectfully request that claim 21 be allowed under the same rationale as for claim 2.

Interview Request

Applicants thank the Examiner for the productive exchange during the last interview. If the claims after amendment are not found by the Examiner to be allowable, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney to set up an interview to discuss this application.

Conclusion

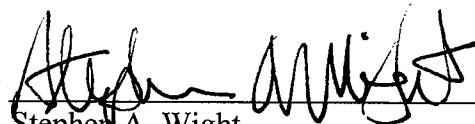
The claims in their present form should be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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